



## NWS Des Moines

Cover Photo: Photogenic supercell sporting a well-defined wall cloud moving through Waukee and Clive, Iowa on June 22, 2021. Photo courtesy of Danny Higgins.

# The Weather Whisper

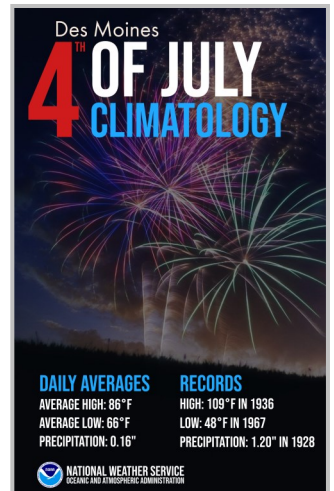
July 2021

## Employee Spotlight—Kristy Carter

Although Kristy has been part of the NWS Des Moines staff since June 2019 as a Pathways Intern while working on her PhD at Iowa State University, she officially joins the team as a Meteorologist this month. Originally from the suburbs of Kansas City (KS), Kristy has a B.S. in Meteorology with a Minor in Music Performance from Iowa State, and a M.S. in Geography from the University of South Carolina. Kristy's research has varied from studying snow and avalanches in Alaska, to public attitudes about energy sources, to risk and science communication, and GIS (Geographic Information Systems).

Outside of academics and research, Kristy is heavily involved in the American Meteorological Society and volunteers as a Climbing and Challenge Course instructor for Scouts BSA. In her free time, Kristy is most likely playing her French horn, biking, rock climbing, or on an outdoor adventure with her husband.

She's thrilled to officially be part of the NWS Des Moines staff and continue to serve central Iowa, a place she's called home for nine (non-continuous) years!



*Taken while sea kayaking Prince William Sound, Alaska in June 2012*

## Severe Weather Returns to Iowa

Kenny Podrazik, Meteorologist

The weather pattern finally flipped into a more typical June-like weather pattern from June 17<sup>th</sup> to June 25<sup>th</sup> when there were several days with strong to severe thunderstorms and heavy rain. Prior to June 17<sup>th</sup>, the weather had been fairly quiet as the Des Moines NWS office had only issued a total of 6 Tornado and Severe Thunderstorm Warnings combined so far for the entire year! During the period from June 17<sup>th</sup> to June 25<sup>th</sup>, a combination of 54 Tornado and Severe Thunderstorm Warnings were issued from the NWS Des Moines office, plus 2 Flash Flood Warnings. Through the end of June, there are normally around 175 combined warnings issued by the NWS Des Moines office.

The severe weather mainly came in the form of damaging winds and large hail. However, there was a brief tornado that struck the northwest side of Pella on June 20<sup>th</sup> and was rated an [EF-1 by a NWS Survey Team](#). With the Pella tornado, the statewide tornado total for 2021 rose to 6 at the end of June. Normally through the end of June, the statewide total is around 34 tornadoes.

A couple days earlier on the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup> into the early morning hours of the 19<sup>th</sup>, several severe thunderstorms ravaged southern Iowa and produced very large hail. The largest hail report was 4 inches in diameter (or softball size) in Bridgewater, Iowa and there were several other locations that reported golf ball to baseball size hail. In fact, Lorimor, Iowa

received hail up to baseballs and caused damage to many vehicles and some buildings.

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, a picturesque supercell developed in Dallas County and tracked through Dallas Center, Grimes, Urbandale, Waukee and through Norwalk and Indianola leaving a trail of pea to quarter size hail that covered the [ground](#). Unfortunately, along with the hail, strong winds led to wind-driven hail and caused damage to crops and a local nursery over portions of eastern Dallas County and western Polk County.

Storms pillaged southern Iowa once again on June 24<sup>th</sup> with hail, damaging winds, and heavy rain. Flash flooding occurred over portions of southeast Iowa as multiple locations recorded rainfall amounts of [3 to 6 inches](#) with one Mesonet report of 7.21 inches just northwest of Eldon.



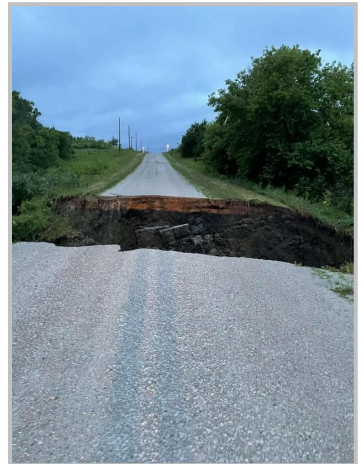
*Hail covering the ground just west of Grimes, Iowa on June 22, 2021. Photo courtesy of Clarence Smith*



*Huge hail from Lorimor, Iowa on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Photo courtesy of Alyssa Love.*



*Backside of a severe thunderstorm in Oskaloosa, Iowa on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Photo courtesy of Freddy McKinney.*



*Flash flood washed out a county road near Blakesburg, Iowa on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Photo courtesy of Wapello County Sheriff.*



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